

Reading against the Grain: Transcodifying Stimulus Meaning

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Abstract : On translating, reading against the grain results in a wrong effect in the TL. Quine's ocular irradiation plays an important part in the process of understanding and translating a text. The various types of textual radiation must be rendered by the translator by paying close attention to the types of field that produce it. The literary work must be seen as an indirect cause of an expressive effect in the TL that is supposed to be similar to the effect it has in the SL. If the adaptive transformative codes are so flexible that they encourage the translator to repeatedly leave out parts of the original work, then a subversive pattern emerges which changes the entire book. In this case, the translator is a writer per se who decides what goes in and out of the book, how the style is to be ciphered and what elements of ideology are to be highlighted. Figurative language must not be flattened for the sake of clarity or naturalness. The missing figurative elements make the translated text less interesting, less challenging and less vivid which reflects poorly on the writer. There is a close connection between style and the writer's person. If the writer's style is very much changed in a translation, the translation is useless as the original writer and his / her imaginative world can no longer be discovered. Then, a different writer appears and his / her creation surfaces. Changing meaning considered as a "negative shift" in translation defines one of the faulty transformative codes used by some translators. It is a dangerous tool which leads to adaptations that sometimes reflect the original less than the reader would wish to. It contradicts the very essence of the process of translation which is that of making a work available in a foreign language. Employing speculative aesthetics at the level of a text indicates the wish to create manipulative or subversive effects in the translated work. This is generally achieved by adding new words or connotations, creating new figures of speech or using explicitations. The irradiation patterns of the original work are neglected and the translator creates new meanings, implications, emphases and contexts. Again s/he turns into a new author who enjoys the freedom of expressing his / her ideas without the constraints of the original text. The stimulus meaning of a text is very important for a translator which is why reading against the grain is inadvisable during the process of translation. By paying attention to the waves of the SL input, a faithful literary work is produced which does not contradict general knowledge about foreign cultures and civilizations. Following personal common sense is essential in the field of translation as well as everywhere else.

Keywords : stimulus meaning, substance of expression, transformative code, translation

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